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West Corporation c/o Michele Zarinelli 11808 Miracle Hills Drive MSW11-Legal Omaha, NE 68154			EXAMINER GUPTA, MUKTESH G	
			ART UNIT 2444	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/776,459	Applicant(s) VERNON ET AL.	
	Examiner Muktesh G. Gupta	Art Unit 2444	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. **Claim 1** is amended.

Claims 1-30 are presented for examination have been examined on merits and are pending in this application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/05/2009 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

3. Acknowledgment is made for Applicants Amendments for claims filed on 01/05/2009.

Applicant's amendment necessitated updating search and new ground(s) of rejection presented in this office action.

Applicant's arguments are deemed moot in view of the following new grounds of rejection as explained here below, necessitated by Applicant's substantial amendment (i.e., wherein the endpoint address is any end point that can communicate including a website, a session initiation protocol telephone, a

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telephone, a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant, and any other type of media component that can communicate) to the claim which significantly affected the scope thereof.

Applicant's arguments with respect to amended **Claims 1-30**, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claim 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 1, recites the limitation, "wherein the endpoint address is any end point that can communicate including a website, a session initiation protocol telephone, a telephone, a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant, and any other type of media component that can communicate". There is no support found in specification for disclosure for Cellular Telephone and Personal Digital Assistant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6437818 to Ludwig et al., (hereinafter "Ludwig"), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030105820 to Haims, Jeffrey et al., (hereinafter "Haims").

*Regarding **Claims 1-30** Ludwig discloses substantially the invention as claimed. Ludwig does not explicitly disclose wherein the endpoint address is any end point that can communicate including a website, a session initiation protocol.*

In same field of endeavor and related art Haims discloses as stated in par. 0034-0040, par. 0013-0014, as shown in FIG. 1, communication system 100 includes a plurality of user devices 110a-n in communication with each other and a communication server 200 over a communications network 150. Users operating user devices 110 may interact with each other. This interaction can include audio, video, text, and other forms of communication as will be described further herein. Further, this interaction can include collaboration among users in which users operating user devices 110 may jointly view and manipulate applications and/or documents. User devices 110 may be any of a number of

different types of devices which may be used to engage in various forms of communication such as voice, video, text or graphical interaction. For example, some user devices 110 may be a computer, that are adapted to communicate via network 150. The computer may be configured in any of a number of different manners, such as, for example, as a desk-top computer, lap-top computer, handheld computer, personal digital assistant (PDA), or the like. Each user device 110 may operate software applications allowing the device to communicate via network 150 and to send and receive information pursuant to embodiments of the present invention. Such user devices 110 may be configured with voice input and output devices and, in some embodiments, with video capture and display devices as are known in the art. Some user devices 110 may be telephones (either wired or wireless) which send and receive voice data and, in some embodiments, text messages. The participant may have multiple devices all "online" at the same time depending on situation and need. Embodiments of the present invention manage these multiple devices and the status of all participants using persistent real-time parallel state control. For example, a communication server may be used to perform state control of all devices that are logged on or registered with the system. As used herein, "state control" is used to refer to the status or availability of each device registered with the system (e.g., a device may be "available" or "online" or it may be "unavailable" or "offline"). Embodiments of the present invention track this state information based, at least in part, on information provided by each participant. As used

herein, communication network 150 may employ any of a number of different types and modes of communication, and may be for example, a Local Area Network (LAN), a Metropolitan Area Network (MAN), a Wide Area Network (WAN), a proprietary network, a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) network, a wireless network, a cable television network, or an Internet Protocol (IP) network such as the Internet, an intranet or an extranet. Moreover, as used herein, communications include those enabled by wired or wireless technology. communication between user devices 110a-n and communication server 200 is supported by implementation of telecommunication standards including International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recommendation H.323 "Packet-Based Multimedia Communications Systems" and ITU recommendation T.120 "Data Protocols for Multimedia Conferencing", the contents of each of which are incorporated herein in their entirety. H.323 specifies components, protocols and procedures for real-time point-to-point and multipoint multimedia communication over packet-based networks and also establishes interoperability guidelines. In an embodiment implemented using H.323, each user device 110 may be configured as an H.323 client or endpoint where H.323 data streams and signaling originate and terminate. For example, such user devices 110 may be configured with a H.323 compliant stack, SIP Client Stack or a standalone device such as PDA using universal serial bus (USB) and IP telephone. In some embodiments, one or more gateway devices may also be provided to facilitate communication between

different networks. Pursuant to some embodiments of the present invention, methods, apparatus, systems, computer program code, and means for providing a user interface for a network communications software application includes: an action section having at least a portion thereof presented in an upper half of a display of a first computing device during use of a first software application, the action section including a plurality of selectable action icons, the selection of any of which by a first user of the computing device initiates at least one of the following processes between the first user and a second user having a second computing device in communication with the first computing device over a communications network: an online communication with a productivity application, a video communication, an audio communication, and a text message communication; an outline section having at least a portion thereof presented in a right half of the display of the first computing device, the outline section including a plurality of selectable function icons and a plurality of communications data fields, the plurality of selectable function icons comprising at least one of: a telephone keypad with selectable numeric keys, a volume control including a mute function, and a conference disconnect control; the plurality of communications data fields comprising at least one of: a name of a party to a conference, a name of other attendees of the conference, an indication of a host of the conference; an address book of comprising addresses of other users available for the conference; and a content section having at least a portion thereof presented in a lower half of the display of the first computing device, the

content section including a frame for allowing the display and manipulation of a second software application by the first user, wherein the second software application is not required to be resident on the first computing device. Pursuant to some embodiments of the present invention, methods, apparatus, systems, computer program code, and means for initiating an online conference using a network communication software application on a first computing device are provided which include: selecting a communication type icon for initiating one of the following processes of an online conference: an online communication of a productivity application, a voice communication, a video communication and a text messaging communication; selecting an attendee for the online conference; and transmitting a text message for display on a computing device of the selected attendee, wherein the attendee may select an alternate destination for the display of the text message when the attendee is not using a second computing device having a network address assigned to the attendee.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ludwig's Collaborative multimedia system where Collaboration Initiator 161 performs all collaborative functions which can be accessed through this module when the Collaboration Initiator is started, it exchanges initial configuration information with the Audio Video Network Manager (AVNM) 60 (shown in FIG. 3) through Data Network 902. Information is also sent from the Collaboration Initiator to the AVNM indicating the location of the user, the types of services available on that workstation (e.g.,

videoconferencing, data conferencing, telephony, etc.) and other relevant initialization information. Clients communicate with the MLAN Server Software Modules 62 using the TCP/IP network protocols. Generally, the AVNM 63 cooperates with the Service Server 69, Conference Bridge Manager (CBM 64 in FIG. 21) and the WAN Network Manager (WNM 65 in FIG. 21) to manage communications within and among both MLANs 10 and WANs 15 to incorporate Haims's user interfaces and means for facilitating online communication in a communication system 1100 which includes a communication server 200, is in communication with a number of sub-components, including one or more conference bridges 202, a Web server 204, a messaging server 206, and a presence server 208. Each of these components interact together to facilitate communication between users operating user devices 110a-n. In today's fast paced business environment, it is often desirable to quickly determine if a person is available for an on-line communication session, and if so, quickly join the person in an on-line communication session. It would be desirable to provide systems and methods which track these options and allow individuals to be readily contacted. It would further be desirable to provide systems and methods which allow individuals to be quickly contacted and involved in communication sessions with one or more other individuals. It would further be desirable to provide systems and methods which track the accessibility of individuals, allowing an initiator of a communication session to quickly ascertain the availability or non-availability of a potential participant.

The motivation would have been for real time transmission of streaming media for collaboration to client's devices with address for different media and transport over different network to provide user interfaces and tools which allow participants to securely, efficiently and readily manage and initiate interactions with others, communicate and collaborate, as well as provide systems and methods which track the accessibility of individuals, allowing an initiator of a communication session to quickly ascertain the availability or non-availability of a potential participant which use multiple communication devices.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine these two references of Ludwig's and Haims's disclosure in light of guaranteed communication for all types of devices using different types of network and media in a collaboration system.

Together Ludwig and Haims disclose all limitations of Claims and hence are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

As to Claim 1, *Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system for facilitating a multimedia collaboration session between a plurality of participants, comprising a plurality of client devices associated with each of the plurality of participants, each of the plurality of client devices configured to store endpoint address information associated with the associated participant, the multimedia collaboration system configured to (as stated in col. 5, line 61-67, Col. 18, lines 38-41, lines 63-65, and col. 6, lines 1-6, col. 19, line 21-31, col. 14, lines 62-67, col. 15, lines 1-11, plurality of collaborative*

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multimedia workstations with multimedia devices connects to multimedia local area networks and wide area networks to provide audio/video/data networking for supporting collaboration among collaborative multimedia workstation users. System also allows sessions to be invoked from the keyboard. It provides a graphical editor to bind combinations of participants and session types to certain hot keys. Once the user selects the desired participant and session type, Collaboration Initiator module retrieves necessary addressing information from Directory Service. One embodiment of a CMW 12 of the present invention is illustrated in FIG. 18A. Currently available personal computers (e.g., an Apple Macintosh or an IBM-compatible PC, desktop or laptop) and workstations (e.g., a Sun SPARCstation) can be adapted to work with the present invention to provide such features as real-time videoconferencing, data conferencing, multimedia mail, etc. In business situations, it can be advantageous to set up a laptop to operate with reduced functionality via cellular telephone links and removable storage media (e.g., CD-ROM, video tape with timecode support, etc.), but take on full capability back in the office via a docking station connected to the MLAN 10. This requires a voice and data modem as yet another function server attached to the MLAN):

automatically obtain the endpoint address information from each of the client devices (as stated in col. 19, lines 1-67, col. 38, lines 62-67, col. 39, lines 1-29, Once the user selects the desired participant and session type, Collaboration Initiator module 161 retrieves necessary addressing information from Directory Service 66 (see FIG. 21). In the case of a videoconference call, the Collaboration Initiator (or, in another embodiment, VideoPhone module 169) then communicates with the AVNM to set up the

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necessary data structures and manage the various states of that call, and to control A/V Switching Circuitry 30, which selects the appropriate audio and video signals to be transmitted to/from each participant's CMW. additional collaborative services--such as Mail 165, Application Sharing 166, Computer-Integrated Telephony 167 and Computer Integrated Fax 168--are also available from the CMW by utilizing Collaboration Initiator module 161 to initiate the session (i.e., to contact the participants) and to invoke the appropriate application necessary to manage the collaborative session. When initiating asynchronous collaboration (e.g., mail, fax, etc.), the Collaboration Initiator contacts Directory Service 66 for address information (e.g., EMAIL address, fax number, etc.) for the selected participants and invokes the appropriate collaboration tools with the obtained address information. For real-time sessions, the Collaboration Initiator queries the Service Server module 69 inside AVNM 63 for the current location of the specified participants. Using this location information, it communicates (via the AVNM) with the Collaboration Initiators of the other session participants to coordinate session setup. As a result, the various Collaboration Initiators will invoke modules 166, 167 or 168 (including activating any necessary devices such as the connection between the telephone and the CMW's audio I/O port. In FIG. 42 deferred call indicator 271 and the indicator for the call placed on hold (next to the highlighted RESUME button in video window 203), as well as the image of caller 272 from the laptop in the field in Central Mexico. Although Mexican caller 272 is outdoors and has no direct access to any wired telephone connection, his laptop has two wireless modems permitting dial-up access to two data connections in the nearest field office (through which his calls were routed).

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The system automatically (based upon the laptop's registered service capabilities) allocated one connection for an analog telephone voice call (using his laptop's built-in microphone and speaker and the Expert's computer-integrated telephony capabilities) to provide audio teleconferencing. Despite the limited capabilities of the wireless laptop equipment, the present invention accommodates such capabilities, supplementing an audio telephone connection with limited (i.e., relatively slow) one-way video and data conferencing functionality. As telephony and video compression technologies improve, the present invention will accommodate such improvements automatically);

associate a plurality of endpoint addresses associated with a participant of the plurality of participant, with a network and with a media type, wherein the endpoint address is any end point that can communicate including a website, a session initiation protocol telephone, a telephone, a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant, and any other type of media component that can communicate (as stated in col. 20, lines 16-25, col. 21, lines 65-67, col. 22, lines 1-13, col. 18, lines 17-32, clients (e.g., software-controlling workstations, VCRs, laserdisks, multimedia resources, etc.) communicate with the MLAN Server Software Modules 62 using the TCP/IP network protocols. Generally, the AVNM 63 cooperates with the Service Server 69, Conference Bridge Manager (CBM 64 in FIG. 21) and the WAN Network Manager (WNM 65 in FIG. 21) to manage communications within and among both MLANs 10 and WANs 15 (FIGS. 1 and 3). The basic underlying software-controlled operations occurring for a two-party call are diagrammatically illustrated in FIG. 23. After logging to AVNM 63, as indicated by (1) in FIG. 23, a caller initiates a call (e.g., by selecting a user from the graphical

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rolodex and clicking the call button or by double-clicking the face icon of the callee on the quick-dial panel). The caller's Collaboration Initiator responds by identifying the selected user and requesting that user's address from Directory Service 66, as indicated by (2) in FIG. 23. Directory Service 66 looks up the callee's address in the directory database, as indicated by (3) in FIG. 23, and then returns it to the caller's Collaboration Initiator, as illustrated by (4) in FIG. 23. The caller's Collaboration Initiator sends a request to the AVNM to place a video call to the caller with the specified address, as indicated by (5) in FIG. 23. A portable laptop implementation can be made to deliver multimedia mail with video, audio and synchronized annotations via CD-ROM or an add-on videotape unit with separate video, audio and time code tracks (a stereo videotape player can use the second audio channel for time code signals). Videotapes or CD-ROMs can be created in main offices and express mailed, thus avoiding the need for high-bandwidth networking when on the road. Cellular phone links can be used to obtain both voice and data communications (via modems). Modem-based data communications are sufficient to support remote control of mail or presentation playback, annotation, file transfer and fax features. The laptop can then be brought into the office and attached to a docking station where the available MLAN 10 and additional functions adapted from Add-on box 800 can be supplied, providing full CMW capability);

select appropriate endpoint address from the participant's client device based on type of request, the network and the media type (as stated in col. 19, lines 8-20, lines 28-38, col. 20, lines 40-54, col. 19, lines 57-67, Once the user elects to initiate a collaborative session, he or she selects one or more desired participants by, for

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example, clicking on that name to select the desired participant from the system rolodex or a personal rolodex, or by clicking on the quick-dial button for that participant (see, e.g., FIG. 2A). In either case, the user then selects the desired session type--e.g., by clicking on a CALL button to initiate a videoconference call, a SHARE button to initiate the sharing of a snapshot image or blank whiteboard, or a MAIL button to send mail. Alternatively, the user can double-click on the rolodex name or a face icon to initiate the default session type--e.g., an audio/video conference call. Once the user selects the desired participant and session type, Collaboration Initiator module 161 retrieves necessary addressing information from Directory Service 66 (see FIG. 21). In the case of a videoconference call, the Collaboration Initiator (or, in another embodiment, VideoPhone module 169) then communicates with the AVNM (as described in greater detail below) to set up the necessary data structures and manage the various states of that call, and to control A/V Switching Circuitry 30, which selects the appropriate audio and video signals to be transmitted to/from each participant's CMW. The AVNM 63 manages A/V Switching Circuitry 30 in FIG. 3 for selectively routing audio/video signals to and from CMWs 12, and also to and from WAN gateway 40, as called for by clients. Audio/video devices (e.g., CMWs 12, conference bridges 35, multimedia resources 16 and WAN gateway 40 in FIG. 3) connected to A/V Switching Circuitry 30 in FIG. 3, have physical connections for audio in, audio out, video in and video out. For each device on the network, the AVNM combines these four connections into a port abstraction, wherein each port represents an addressable bidirectional audio/video channel. Each device connected to the network has at least one port. Different ports may share the

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same physical connections on the switch, which selects the appropriate audio and video signals to be transmitted to/from each participant's CMW including activating any necessary devices such as the connection between the telephone and the CMW's audio I/O port, for the selected participants and invokes the appropriate collaboration tools with the obtained address information).

As to Claim 2, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information is used to add a new media component to the multimedia collaboration session (as stated in lines col. 6, lines 7-18, various other multimedia resources such as VCR, TV feeds are connected to multimedia LANs and there by accessible to individual collaborative multimedia workstations).

As to Claim 3, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information for each participant comprises endpoint address information for a plurality of endpoints (as stated in col. 8, lines 63-67, col. 9, lines 1-14, for connecting to all the desired participants multimedia LAN server controls to set up the required audio/video/data paths to conferees which in turn is endpoint address for participants as well as the associated devices in network paths).

As to Claim 4, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 3, wherein priority can be assigned to the plurality of endpoints for each participant (as

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stated in col. 37, lines 55-65, priority can be assigned to multiple collaborative services associated with participants).

As to Claim 5, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 3, wherein a hierarchy can be assigned to the plurality of endpoints for each participant (as stated in col. 10, lines 66-67 and col. 11, lines 1-5, in case of several multiple hop routes available, the routing system handles the network hierarchy at the connection endpoints).

As to Claim 6, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the new media component is an audio conferencing component (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38, a handset/headset jack enables the use of an integrated audio I/O device).

As to Claim 7, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 6, wherein the addition of the audio conferencing component includes the addition of telephonic conferencing via a telephonic network (as stated in col. 19, lines 47-67 and col. 20, line 1, Audio/Video Network Manager provides connection through a/v switches between telephone and collaborative multimedia workstation's audio I/O device).

As to Claim 8, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 7, wherein the multimedia collaboration session occurs over a network that is separate from the telephonic network (as stated in col. 7, lines 26-34, multimedia audio network is separate from the multimedia data network).

As to Claim 9, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 7, wherein the multimedia collaboration session occurs over one network and the added media component is associated with a second network (as stated in col. 7, lines 26-34, multimedia audio network is separate from the multimedia data network).

As to Claim 10, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 9, wherein the two networks use separate access devices (as stated in col. 7, lines 62-67 and col. 8, lines 1-6, multimedia audio network access devices are separate from the multimedia data network access devices).

As to Claim 11, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 9, wherein the two networks use different addressing schemes (as stated in col. 7, lines 62-67 and col. 8, lines 1-22, data network uses different addressing schemes, the TCP/IP protocol suite for communicating with the server).

As to Claim 12, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein multimedia collaboration system is further configured to facilitate the addition of a new media component to the collaboration session by automatically storing the endpoint address information for each of the plurality of participants as each participant joins the multimedia collaboration session (as stated in col. 21, lines 6-18, 65-67, col. 22, lines 1-25, when participants are joining the collaborative services, audio/video network manager module registers, stores and replicates to other service servers the network resources of participants and the end point addresses).

As to Claims 13-14, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to facilitate the addition of a new media component to the multimedia collaboration session upon receipt of a query from a existing and new participant (as stated in Col. 24, line 48-60, col. 25, line 26-43 and col. 26, lines 13-22 new users are added along with there associated network/media devices as they are invited and when they want to join as an new participant to the collaborative session).

As to Claim 15, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information comprises a uniform resource locator for a website (as stated in col. 8, lines 38-62 and col. 28, lines 14-28, for accessing multimedia documents hyperlinks provide endpoint address to those documents).

As to Claim 16, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoints address information comprises a telephone number (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38 and col. 19, lines 47-67, as part of computer integrated telephony, collaborative multimedia workstations have telephone with number which is an endpoint address for the telephone).

As to Claim 17, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint addresses information includes a list of addresses for the associated participant (as stated in col. 19, lines 28—67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, participants collaborative multimedia workstations have, fax/mail/telephone/audio/video services with end point addresses).

As to Claim 18, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the list of addresses corresponds to multiple client devices (as stated in col. 19, lines 28—67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, fax/mail/telephone/audio/video services are provided by the corresponding devices).

As to Claim 19, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to automatically attempt to connect via each of addresses in the list of addresses until it achieves a

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successful connection (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, Collaborative Initiator Module initiates connections to collaborative services when participant joins the session).

As to Claim 20, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 19, wherein the endpoint address information includes multiple phone numbers for the associated participant (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38, col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2 associated participant have telephone, fax and number associated with them).

As to Claim 21, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 20, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to automatically dial each of the multiple phone numbers until it achieves a successful audio connection (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, Collaborative Initiator Module initiates connections to collaborative services when participant joins the session).

As to Claim 22, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein it enables each participant to edit the participant's associated endpoint address information using the participant's associated client device (as stated in col. 21, lines 19-30, lines 65-67 and col. 22, lines 1-25, lines 62-66, participants can select services they want and edit and update corresponding endpoint address associated with the service devices).

As to Claim 23, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information comprises an internet protocol address for a client device (as stated in col. 8, lines 12-22, collaborative multimedia workstation endpoint address is TCP/IP network protocol suite).

As to Claim 24, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to distribute the endpoint address information obtained to each participant (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-46 and col. 21, lines 6-30, when participants select the services required, they register with service server which in turn replicates and distribute to other service servers).

As to Claim 25, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 24, wherein the endpoint address information distributed by the multimedia collaboration system can be stored on each of the participant's associated client device (as stated in col. 19, lines 59-67, col. 20, lines 1-2 and col. 21 lines 6-30, participants endpoint address distributed by service server enables participant to add other participants shown on there collaborative multimedia workstation as icons).

As to Claim 26, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein endpoint address information is automatically collected from each client device

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when an associated participant joins the multimedia collaboration session using the client device (as stated in col. 21 lines 6-30, lines 65-67, and col. 22, lines 1-25, when participants joins a collaborative session using client devices, they register with service server which automatically collects the end point address of the client device).

As to Claim 27, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the new media component is a video stream component (as stated in col. 29, lines 9-31, multimedia conference is recorded and played as video stream).

As to Claim 28, Ludwig teaches multimedia collaboration system of claim 27, wherein the endpoint address information obtained by the multimedia collaboration system can be distributed to client device associated with participants that wish to share video streams, and wherein the client devices can use the endpoint address information distributed to the client device to exchange the video streams between the client device (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-46 and col. 21 lines 6-30, participants can select the services they want and share with other participants video streams which are stored on servers with endpoint address associated for replay).

As to Claim 29, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 28, wherein the client devices sharing the video streams share the video streams in a peer-to-manner using the distributed endpoint address information (as stated in col. 9, lines

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4-14, col. 21 lines 65-67, and col. 22, lines 1-26, 55-61, Audio/Video switching is peer-to-peer basis between servers).

As to Claim 30, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of central servers is configured to handle a different media component (as stated in col. 21, lines 6-18, col. 28, lines 52-55, and col. 30 lines 28-30, multiple servers are used for collaborative services, service server, audio/video storage servers and data server for time-sensitive media and media that have synchronization requirements with other media components).

Remarks

5. The following pertaining arts are discovered and not used in this office action. Office reserves the right to use these arts in later actions.
- a. Gallant, John K. et al. (US 20020150226 A1) Caller treatment in a SIP network
 - b. Pulito; Brian et al. (US 7313593 B1) Method and apparatus for providing full duplex and multipoint IP audio streaming
 - c. Vrvilo; Benjamin et al. (US 5913062 A) Conference system having an audio manager using local and remote audio stream state machines for providing audio control functions during a conference session

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Muktesh G. Gupta whose telephone number is 571-270-5011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2444